Import of Newsprint

1237. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the total quantity of newsprint imported during the year 1987-88 and the amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): The total quantity of newsprint imported by the State Trading Corporation of India during the year 1987-88 was 2,43,968 metric tonnes valued at Rs. 182.87 crores.

Administrative Reforms Commission

1238. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission to ablish the direct recruitment in Class II (Group-B) posts;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per recommendation of the ARC the recruitment rules of Assistant Engineers in CPWD has been amended but the direct recruitment rules of Assistant Engineers has not yet been abolished;

(c) if so, the reason of such action of Government; and

(d) the action Government contemplate to take in near future on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Commission recommended that the direct recruitment to class-II posts whose incumbents perform duties similar to those allotted to Junior Class I Officers may be abolished. Such posts may be filled entirely by promotion.

(b) and (c) The recruitment rules of Assistant Engineers in CPWD have not been amended, but the direct recruitment to the grade of Assistant Engineers (Group-B) has been suspended since 1972, and based on the recommendation of 3rd Pay Commission Limited Departmental Examination has been introduced from Feb., 1977 for promotion in the grade of Assistant Engineer from the grade of Junior Engineer.

(d) No change is contemplated in the near future.

Change in Fuel Technology for Steel Mills

1239. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a change in fuel technology for the steel mills;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof,

(c) whether these reconsideraions are as a sequel to the foreign technologies; and

(d) whether this new technology will be beneficial to the national economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The fuel technology for steel plants is under review with regard to economics of using imported coal in place of indigenous coal and natural gas, due to its improved availability in different parts of the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes Sir. This will prove beneficial to national economy as it is expected to improve the productivity of the plants and the quality of the steel products.

Information Minister's Conference

1240. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the suggestions put forward by the different States in the